

THE FLOATING BEAR;  
DIANE DI PRIMA;  
LEROI JONES  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

BU File #88-19,172  
DL File #62-3099

9 copies of "THE FLOATING BEAR" submitted for Laboratory.

*OBSCENE*

*Enclosure to  
P.O. Jones by  
let. 12/16/61  
mll*

ENCLOSURE

D-380517

107-438-1

Date: December 7, 1961

To: Mr. H. B. Montague  
Chief Postal Inspector  
Post Office Department  
Washington 25, D. C. REC-135 62-107438-1

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director EX-105

Subject: "THE FLOATING BEAR";  
DIANE DI PRIMA;  
LEROI JONES  
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

On August 8, 1961, one [redacted] was taken into custody by FBI Agents on a charge of unlawfully fleeing from the State of New Jersey to avoid prosecution for armed robbery. [redacted] was released on bond in Laredo, Texas, while awaiting extradition to New Jersey. He failed to appear for his extradition hearing and his bondsman discovered that [redacted] had disappeared with his family.

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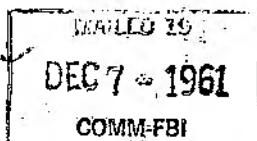
During the course of his efforts to trace and locate [redacted] the bondsman discovered nine pamphlets captioned, "The Floating Bear" among personal effects abandoned by [redacted]. The pamphlets appear to be a newsletter published semimonthly. The editors are identified as Diane Di Prima and Leroy Jones and the address of "The Floating Bear" is shown as 309 East Houston Street, New York 2, New York.

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Some of the publications appear to be obscene and several contain derogatory remarks concerning the United States Government and Government officials.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEL:mal  
(4)



TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(SEE NOTE ON PAGE 2)

DEC 12 1961

DEC 11 1961

Mr. H. B. Montague

Enclosed herewith are issues Number 4 through Number 12 of "The Floating Bear," which appear to have been sent through the United States mail and, therefore, are within the investigative jurisdiction of the Post Office Department. The issues are being forwarded to you for appropriate action and may be disposed of in any manner desired by your office.

Enclosures (9)

NOTE:

Nine issues of "The Floating Bear," some containing obscenity, obtained by bondsman for [redacted] in [redacted] apartment after [redacted] skipped bond. These issues appear to have been mailed from New York City and, therefore, forwarded to Post Office Inspector for appropriate action. Publication not previously brought to Bureau attention.

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Recorded  
11/13/61  
ek

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

Re: THE FLOATING BEAR;  
DIANE DI PRIMA;  
LEROI JONES  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

File # 62-107438-1  
Lab. # D-380517 AV

Examination requested by: FBI, Dallas (62-3099) Letter 11/7/61

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 11/9/61

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Brittain *11/29/61*

1. NI Q1 → Q9 in O.F.

2. No Lab rept necessary

3. No records "The Floating Bear" in Bureau  
Indices per call Service Unit 11/20/61

Specimens submitted for examination

Nine newsletters entitled "THE FLOATING BEAR" and further described as follows:

Q1 Issue #4  
Q2 Issue #5  
Q3 Issue #6  
Q4 Issue #7  
Q5 Issue #8  
Q6 Issue #9  
Q7 Issue #10  
Q8 Issue #11  
Q9 Issue #12

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 11/7/61

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (62-3099) (E)RUC

SUBJECT: THE FLOATING BEAR  
DIANE DI PRIMA  
LEROI JONES  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

(OO - Newark)

380512

Re Philadelphia letter to Director, 10/9/61,  
captioned [redacted] aka., INFORMATION CON-  
CERNING, Bureau File #88-19,172."

On 10/23/61 Mr. [redacted]

ad-

vised SA ARNOLD J. BROWN that he had made bond for [redacted]  
[redacted] at Laredo, Texas, because of a request by  
[redacted] of Ft. Worth,  
Texas.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] had been at the  
office on 9/25/61 and that [redacted] was to appear in the  
111th District Court at Laredo, Texas on 9/29/61, for  
extradition proceedings.

[redacted] pointed out that he had brought [redacted]  
and [redacted] to Ft. Worth, Texas, and they  
had been staying at [redacted]  
but had disappeared on 9/27/61.

[redacted] advised he had obtained a considerable  
amount of correspondence from the residence at [redacted]  
[redacted] rear was where [redacted] had been staying and most of this  
correspondence from [redacted]  
[redacted] or was from  
[redacted] in care of General Delivery, Laredo,  
Texas.

3 - Bureau (Encl. 9)  
1 - Newark (88-2667) (Inf.)  
1 - Dallas  
AJB:nlf  
(5)

WCT-30

REC-43

107438

NOV 9 1961

COPY & SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB  
FOR LAB ACTION & REPORT

91-99

[redacted] stated there was also correspondence from [redacted] of [redacted]

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[redacted] advised that he had reviewed this material and letters and apparently [redacted] was the person who had interceded to get [redacted] to obtain someone to make [redacted] bond.

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[redacted] stated that [redacted] is a "beatnik" poet and that he believes [redacted] is some kind of artist and [redacted] has an avid interest in art.

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[redacted] stated there was no correspondence regarding any activities of "guerrilla troops" but there were some notes that [redacted] had made about a possible trip to South America.

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[redacted] also made available a letter directed to [redacted] American Civil Liberties Union, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, dated 9/7/61, which was not mailed. This letter identified [redacted] as incarcerated in jail at Laredo, Texas, and also stated he had been forcibly taken from his home by the Mexican Immigration Authorities on the request from the FBI, who told them he had left bail bond and was a Communist and a drug addict.

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[redacted] also made available an envelope addressed to [redacted] in care of General Delivery, Vera Cruz, Mexico, with a return address of The Floating Bear, 309 East Houston Street, New York 2, New York.

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This envelope contained issues #4 through #12 of a pamphlet captioned "The Floating Bear", a news letter published semi-monthly. The editors were identified as DIANE DI PRIMA and LEROI JONES.

*DIV II*  
*note* // A review of the issues of "The Floating Bear" reveals that part of them are obscene and there are derogatory remarks in several of them regarding the United States Government and the FBI.

The attention of the Laboratory is directed particularly to issue 8 and 9 containing obscene writings.

DL-62-3099

It is noted that on the face of "The Floating Bear" it is quoted as being copywrited in 1961 by DIANE DI PRIMA and LEROI JONES.

It is not known if the Bureau is aware of "The Floating Bear" publication and the material is being forwarded to the Laboratory for review and evaluation.

It is suggested that the enclosed material be destroyed if the Bureau is all ready aware of the publication "The Floating Bear."

No need to return any of the material to Dallas Office.

Enclosed for the Laboratory are issues 4 through 12 of "The Floating Bear".

The Dallas Office is not taking any additional action and considers this matter closed.

Recorded  
11/13/61  
ek

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

**NO LAB FILE**

Re: **THE FLOATING BEAR;  
DIANE DI PRIMA;  
LEROI JONES  
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Lab. # **D-380517 AV**

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